

MSD/PIC/87/59  
29 June 1959

ORR/I/CM

ATTN :

25X1

Chief, Military-Scientific Division, PIC

Requirement No. RR/HTA/E/R27/59 *P83-59*

1. A study of aerial photography dated [ ] has been made in an attempt to determine whether an ICBM launch site was, as of [ ] under construction in the area of Nizhnaya Salda, USSR. The following paragraphs are in answer to the respective paragraphs of Requirement RR/HTA/E/R27/59:

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(1) The cleared area on the rail line 12 kilometers north of Nizhnaya Salda:

(a) Poor definition and irregular outline preclude a meaningful layout of the area.

(b) It cannot be determined whether any structures or facilities exist in this area. A rail line branching off from the Verkhnaya Salda-Nizhnaya Salda rail line passes through the area. This line does not appear to carry as much traffic as the Verkhnaya Salda/Nizhnaya Salda line.

(c) See paragraph b above.

(d) The purpose of the area, if any, is unknown.

(e) No definite relationship to other areas or facilities can be established. A probable road crosses the area in an east-west direction but there is no direct road connection to Nizhnaya Salda.

(2) Nizhnaya Salda:

(a) A copper ore processing plant cannot be identified at Nizhnaya Salda. It is doubtful whether any major ore processing plant exists, but small primary ore crushing facilities might remain undetected.

(b) An industrial installation is located at the site where Nizhnaya Salda Steel Plant has been reported, but a detailed functional analysis has not been accomplished because of poor quality photography. No other major industries were observed at Nizhnaya Salda.

Referral Review by  
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(c) No major construction activity or significant changes in the town pattern were observed as compared to available town plans. 1/ and 2/

(3) Verkhnyaya Salda:

(a) A copper ore processing plant cannot be identified. There do not appear to be any major ore processing facilities here.

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(b) An industrial installation is located at the site of the reported Verkhnyaya Salda Steel Plant [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Poor definition of images preclude positive identification of facilities. The only other major industrial installation observed has been reported as Verkhnyaya Salda Aircraft Parts Plant [REDACTED] 3/ The plant is located in a large fenced area adjacent to the railroad and is served by several rail spurs. The products manufactured or assembled here cannot be identified on photography.

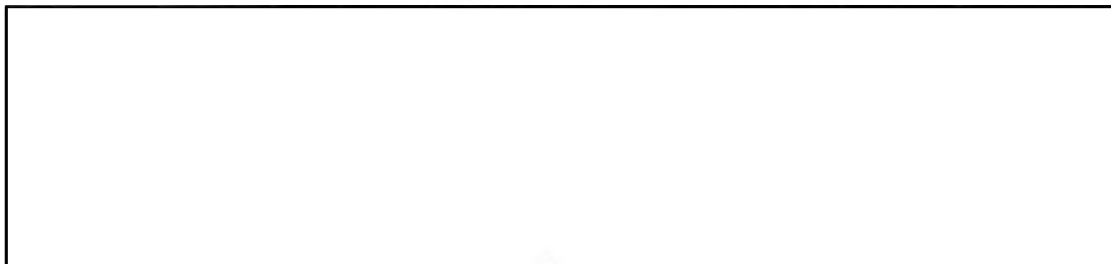
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(c) There does not appear to be any major construction activity or expansion of facilities at time of photography. There is a probable apartment type housing or barracks area in the approximate location shown on a collateral document. 2/ It is adjacent to the reported aircraft parts plant and may be partially enclosed by a fence.

(4) Entire vicinity of Nizhnaya-Verkhnyaya Salda:

(a) A definite statement on construction in the area cannot be made due to quality of photography, lack of comparative photo coverage, and insufficient detail of maps. However, it is felt there was no major construction activity in progress on the date of photography.

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(b) Industrial facilities, other than those noted above, could not be identified. No special housing, military facilities or special transportation or communication facilities were observed.

(c) No other significant cleared areas or construction north of Nizhnaya Salda could be identified.

2. The information above is based on previously prepared prints, dupe positives, and rectified prints. Additional rectifications were not made as it is felt that only a very slight, if any, improvement in quality would be gained and this would not yield any additional information, particularly on the area north of Nizhnaya Salda. It cannot be determined on the basis of existing photography whether an ICBM launch site is under construction in the suspect area north of Nizhnaya Salda.

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee  
1 - CCS/PIC  
1 - MSD Project folder *P 8359*  
1 - MSD/PIC chrono *←*

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